**Title:** Need to provide environmental forest clearance to road construction projects in Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

SHRI MANORANJAN BHAKTA (ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS): Sir, I would like to draw the attention of this august House to the said plight of the environmental forest clearance schemes connected with the development of Andaman and Nicobar Islands, for public utility services pending for a long time. In the tribal area of Nicobar District (i) the construction of road from Kamorta Jetty to Pill Pillow lying pending with the Ministry of Environment and Forests which was sent vide Administration No. 12-9(1)37-89/A&R dated 16th June, 1989 and (ii) operation of stone quarry of NATR (0.81 hectare)lying pending since 1989.

It is unfortunate that in district of Nicobar, which is most undeveloped and hundred per cent population is of the tribal origin, the people are completely neglected of basic infrastructure such as roads in that area.

I would, therefore, like to request you to kindly expedite the clearance of the above proposals so that the people living in that Islands, remote and isolated areas, do not feel aggrieved and neglected. Further, all the time for environmental forest clearance, conditions are imposed to provide equal quantum of revenue land for forestry purposes. It is to be noted that Andaman and Nicobar Islands do have only 14 per cent revenue land and 86 per cent land belongs to forests, and as such, it is highly improper and is impracticable to provide equal quantity of forest land in that part of the country.

I would, therefore, request the Government of India and especially the hon. Minister of Environment and Forests, who is present here, to provide immediate environmental forest clearance to the above projects.